

Horrors 781

Chapter 781: Finally Found You

The giant change inside the art room forced out the shadow which was hiding there. Chen Ge had extremely good vision with the aid from Yin Yang Vision. With one glance, he managed to match the escaping shadow with the one that came from Room 413.

“I’ve finally found you!” Nails kept stabbing into Chen Ge’s body. The pain that it brought was not that serious; what he hated was the feeling that his life was slowly fading. The shadow made the first move, but Chen Ge was closer to the door, and thus, he reached it faster than the shadow.

Chen Ge knew that the enemy was not in its corporeal form, so he might be able to stop it. Therefore, he decided to close the door that had started to bleed. The change continued in the art room. Just as everything was about to get swallowed up by blood, Chen Ge chose a method that was no different from suicide.

“You wish to make me your scapegoat, so I’ll pull you down into hell with me. We’ll hold hands as we head toward death. Maybe we’ll end up as good friends in our next life.” Chen Ge’s maddened solution indeed gave the shadow a shock. The shadow paused where he was for a moment before extending both hands to grab the doorknob.

“Want to run?” Chen Ge blocked at the door. The nails that were hidden in his palm pierced toward the shadow. He used his fingers to shield the nails from view. He only allowed the pointy end of the nails to poke through the gap between his fingers when he was about to make contact with the shadow.

The shadow initially thought that Chen Ge would not be able to harm him, so he did not put up any guard. That was until he was pierced by the nails at his neck. Chen Ge’s heart was hardened after going through so many Trial Missions. Rationality and madness should be two opposite qualities, but they melted together perfectly in this man. Chen Ge knew that he likely only had one chance to strike, so he chose the most fatal spot to attack.

The nails pierced into the shadow’s throat, knocking his head to the side. If he was still alive, this blow would have taken his life. “I was acting out of kindness when I helped you, but you want to make me your scapegoat. We certainly have some scores to settle.”

The pain and curse that he was experiencing was thanks to the human shadows inside Room 413. Therefore, Chen Ge did not hold back at all. Seeing that the nails could damage the shadow, Chen Ge did not give the shadow any chance to retaliate. He pulled out another sharp nail from his pocket and aimed it at the shadow’s eye.

The shadow’s head was tilted on his shoulder. After being ambushed once, he no longer dared underestimate Chen Ge. He retreated several steps to maintain a steady distance between them. More blood leaked out from the corners of the room. This art room was slowly changing, like the blood world was overlapping with the real world, and the former was leaking into the latter. It would be very dangerous to stay inside the room, but Chen Ge blocked the exit and refused to budge. “Since you want me dead, I’m not going to let you leave.”

Chen Ge said that with a smile on his face. He knew the shadow now had the urge to strangle him. However, there was a process to finding a scapegoat. In other words, if the shadow wanted Chen Ge to be his scapegoat, he had to make sure that Chen Ge died the same way as he did. This was similar to why those who drowned wanted to pull their victims into the depths and why those who died from hanging would influence others to do the same.

Of course, this was merely Chen Ge's own opinion. If the understanding of scapegoats inside the door and outside the door was different, there was nothing he could do. After all, he was already in this state, there was no turning back, he could only press forward. The art room was slowly swallowed up by blood. Chen Ge and the shadow froze, at an impasse, before the door; no one was able to move.

This situation was very rare. Normally speaking, after the ghost found a scapegoat, they would hurry to reincarnate or possess the victim's body. Specters that were below Red Specters could not leave their item of possession for long. The scapegoat would be trapped around the place of death for a long time and could not go after the ghost that had harmed him in the first place. Therefore, this kind of situation where the scapegoat found the original ghost and the original ghost was halted by the 'scapegoat' was very rare.

"Don't you plan to say something for yourself?" When he saw the human shadow, Chen Ge's heart dropped back to his stomach. The curse on him could claim his life at any moment. He had to undo the curse, but he could not confirm where the shadow was. Going to the art room had merely been a guess, but who could have known that the shadow was really hiding there?

The shadow didn't seem to possess the ability to speak. He kept waving his arms, gesturing something. Chen Ge could see the shadow's agitation. In fact, he could sense a trace of fear from the shadow. If they stayed inside the art room any longer, something incredibly bad was about to happen.

Chen Ge did not wish to die. He had done all that just to convey his attitude. Now that the shadow was scared into submission, Chen Ge's tone softened. "Remove the curse from me, and we won't owe each other anything. In fact, I might be able to help you find your next scapegoat. Live together or die together—the choice is yours."

He believed the shadow would not reject him. After all, this was non beneficial to either of them, but several seconds later, the shadow's reaction caused Chen Ge to frown. The shadow shook his head, waved his hands, and then used his finger to write out several words in the air. Chen Ge finally understood what he was trying to say.

Chen Ge had no idea whether the shadow was lying to him or not. In any case, before he achieved his goal, he was going to move away from the door. "Can't be removed? Then can you delay the time of death, like give me a few more weeks or a few more months?"

After Chen Ge said that, the shadow thought about it before shaking his head.

"This cannot, that cannot! Do you think I am easily bullied, or do you think I'm not willing to die together with you? I advise you to think about this clearly. This school is so big. After you tricked me in Room 413, you didn't leave immediately. This means that you do not know how to leave this place either. Even if I really become your scapegoat, in the future, I will figure out a way to find you and how these nails pin onto my body. I will slowly pin them back onto you."

After a pause, Chen Ge added, "I am not threatening you—I'm just telling you the truth. Now only by working together will we be able to achieve a win-win solution."

Perhaps Chen Ge's words convince the shadow, or maybe the art room being swallowed by blood was getting too dangerous, but the shadow finally changed its mind. He signaled for Chen Ge to show him his hand.

"I'm warning you, do not play any tricks. Even if I die, I will not let you go," Chen Ge said coldly.

The shadow's head was tilted on his shoulder, and a nail poked through his neck. He looked worse for wear. He had no idea whether he had found a scapegoat or some kind of demon that he could not shake loose.

Helpless, the shadow grabbed Chen Ge's hand. His finger touched Chen Ge's palm lightly, and the lines that were darkening stopped increasing in color as if they felt some kind of influence.

Chapter 782: That Is Our Bond

The palm print stopped turning black, and the anxiety curling around Chen Ge's heart slowly disappeared. He felt like his breathing had become smoother. The human shadow was not lying to him. On the brink of death, he had made the correct choice.

After the Chen Ge's palm print stopped darkening, the shadow's body started to waver even though he had almost coagulated into a physical form earlier.

"I still don't know if I can trust you." Even though Chen Ge had already gotten the advantage, he did not plan to let the shadow go. There was only one chance, so he had to make use of it carefully. When the weakened shadow heard what Chen Ge said, he was practically jumping from agitation. He tried to go and grab the doorknob again, and as a result, there was another nail poking out from his neck.

It was too cruel.

The shadow's face was blurry, so no one could tell his actual facial expression. After being scammed twice, he did not dare stay close to Chen Ge. As the one who lifted his curse, he could barely believe that he would be cornered to this point by his scapegoat. Blood was about to consume the art room. Everything would be swallowed by blood. The shadow waved his hands madly. If they stayed there any longer, there would be nothing of them left behind!

"You are a cunning, despicable, cruel, and scary ghost, and I am just a normal person. The gap between our power is too big. How do you expect me to trust you? I do not know the process of scapegoating, so I have no idea what the lightening of the palm print represents. Even if you have done something to my body, I cannot tell." Chen Ge could feel the change happening inside the art room. The strange paintings were slowly dyed red, and the inverted paintings were turning to normal. Blood covered everything. The two in the room were slowly pulled into the depth of the ocean by a mysterious force that they would find difficult to escape from.

The shadow was unable to speak. He bounced up and down, waving his hands, his gestures becoming bigger and bigger.

“You wish to say that you haven’t lied to me?” Chen Ge knew that they could not stay there for long. He leaned against the door and stood at the spot closest to the door, ready to rush out at any moment. “Fine, I’ll trust you this once, but I hope I can see your sincerity.”

The shadow grasped Chen Ge’s meaning. He had a hard time believing that he would be scammed by his own scapegoat.

“You originally stayed inside Room 413, so you should know a lot about Lin Sisi. I need you to tell me about that—do not hide anything from me.” Chen Ge spoke quickly.

When the shadow heard that, he nodded swiftly. Then he tried to walk forward, but Chen Ge pulled out another nail from his pocket.

“There’s another thing. You stay in the same bedroom as Lin Sisi, so you should know about the password to his phone.” That was one of the key items obtained by Chen Ge, but he lacked the password, so he could not utilize it.

The shadow’s action paused. Just as he was about to express his thought, Chen Ge added, “Don’t think about lying to me. I have his phone right here!”

Retrieving the phone from his phone, Chen Ge turned on the screen. “Tell me!”

When he saw the phone, the shadow’s reaction was slightly out of place. He stepped subconsciously backward and then started to gesture several numbers at Chen Ge.

“51413?” Chen Ge felt that the number was quite familiar. Whenever the shadow gestured a number, he immediately typed it in. After keying in all five numbers, the phone was finally unlocked. “This is an important discovery!”

Memorizing the password, Chen Ge pushed open the door and left the art room. He was a man of his word; after he left, he did not close the door to stop the shadow from leaving. Only after the shadow slipped out did Chen Ge close the door.

The blood inside the door poured and splashed everywhere and swallowed everything, but everything outside the door was normal, completely unaffected. Chen Ge believed that this strange phenomenon had everything to do with those strange paintings.

“I wonder who the painters are. There are thirteen easels in total, so there should be thirteen painters, but their themes and painting styles are so similar. Could it be that they have the same teacher?”

With one problem solved, several new problems rushed into his mind. Chen Ge stood where he was and was frowning in thought when he felt a chill coming from behind him.

Turning back to look, the shadow was expanding, his expression was changing, and his body twisting. His fingers turned into animal claws. The anger that he had experienced when he was inside the art room was finally exploding.

“If you kill me, who is going to be your scapegoat?” Chen Ge opened his arms, and he looked calmer than before. “If I’m not mistaken, everyone at this school is looking for a scapegoat, and there are very few suitable candidates.”

Taking a confident step forward, Chen Ge lifted his eyes to look at the scary face. “After you got me to be your scapegoat, you immediately went into hiding. This proves that you’re also afraid, afraid that after your success, you’ll be targeted by ‘other people’, am I correct?”

The dark claws wrapped around Chen Ge’s neck. The shadow’s heart was filled with resentment—he seemed to be angry at what Chen Ge had done to him earlier.

“I am your scapegoat, and you are the one who made it so. That is the strongest connection binding us together, and no one will be able to contest that.” Chen Ge’s expression gave people a warm feeling. He reached out to touch the shadow’s hand but phased through the shadow. “We are not only not enemies but are allies with the strongest bond. Think about it. You cannot kill me, because if you did, you’ll lose your scapegoat. I am just a normal person, so I won’t survive in this school, and I might be ambushed by some unknown ghost at any moment. The only person whom I can trust and rely on is you because I know you won’t kill me.”

The claw stopped right next to Chen Ge’s neck. The shadow gave it some thought and felt like Chen Ge’s words had some logic to them. However, he felt strange that there would exist such a peaceful relationship between him and his scapegoat.

“This school is filled with danger, and everyone has their own agenda. Cooperation and trust are impossible, but we have worked through that, so we are the most suitable allies!” Chen Ge walked toward the shadow. “Even if the scapegoating is completed, you cannot leave this school. Why don’t we work together to find the exit?”

Looking at Chen Ge, the shadow was beyond shocked. He had never encountered a situation like this before.

“I am in the open, and you’re in the dark. If we work together, we’ll definitely surprise many people.” Chen Ge was completing an impossible thing. At least in this school, such an arrangement had not been attempted before. The shadow’s body was returning to normal. He hesitated a long time before gesturing something with his fingers.

“You want to know why I’m not afraid of you?” Chen Ge shook his head. “I am not not afraid of you—I am so very scared—but I can put on a brave front. Let’s stop wasting time. What else do you know about this Lin Sisi?”

Chapter 783: The Wall

The black shadow and Lin Sisi shared the same bedroom; he even knew Lin Sisi’s phone password. This proved that they shared a more than casual relationship.

“I wish to know everything about Lin Sisi. This is related to whether we can escape from this school or not.” Chen Ge opened his lips to ask, but the shadow did not reply, as if the name Lin Sisi was this school’s taboo and discussing it would bring about some bad luck.

Slowly shaking his head, the shadow pointed at Chen Ge. He pointed at the top of his head and then at the bottom of his feet. It was hard to tell what he was trying to express.

“Are you trying to say that what we’re discussing might be overheard by something else?” Chen Ge tried to read the shadow’s gesture. The shadow shook its head and then used his fingers to make out several words—‘We’ve killed Lin Sisi. All of us are Lin Sisi.’

“All of us are Lin Sisi?” Chen Ge seemed to have understood something. He was about to ask another question when a faded stench drifted through the air. “Something’s coming!”

The shadow reacted faster than Chen Ge. It opened the door opposite and slipped through it. After it got into the room, the shadow did not close the door. Chen Ge grasped his intention immediately and followed him into the room.

He even remembered to leave the door open for me. Looks like he’s willing to cooperate now.

Chen Ge had not lied even once in his words—at least, that was how he saw it. While the ghost needed a scapegoat, he had to be careful that his scapegoat was not stolen by another ghost. Likewise, the scapegoat needed to survive and thus could only pick the most trustworthy one among all the ghosts.

How things would be resolved was a problem for the future. What Chen Ge needed now was to consider how to survive this night. He would make use of everything within his disposal and try his best to see another day.

“Just what is giving off this smell?” Chen Ge stayed away from the door and hid behind the shadow. By then, the shadow had returned to normal. He looked very thin and at least one head smaller than Chen Ge. By having Chen Ge hide behind him, it made a strange scene indeed.

“The change to the art room has most likely affected the workers inside the lab. I saw a guardroom on the second floor, and the Red Specter from there might want to take our lives due to the destruction we’ve wrought to the art room.” Chen Ge analyzed the situation calmly. The shadow agreed with Chen Ge’s reasoning, but he was curious. How did Chen Ge know that there was a Red Specter inside the guardroom?

“This place is no longer safe. We need to leave this building and find another place to hide and discuss the next step of our plan.” Chen Ge had achieved his goal of entering the lab. He did not wish to stay inside this dangerous locale one moment longer. Walking to the window, Chen Ge pulled back the curtain. “It’s a bit dangerous to climb down here.”

However, going back to the elevator was no different from asking for death. The window was the only option. After ensuring that Mr. Bai was not outside, Chen Ge jumped through the window and carefully grabbed onto the ledge. The cold draft lifted his hair. Chen Ge’s back was soaked with sweat. “I sure hope this is nothing but a nightmare. In that case, I’ll be sure to wake up if I just jump down from here.”

Aiming at the machine of the air-conditioner on the third floor, Chen Ge slowly adjusted his posture. “If I miss, everything’s over. Everything depends on this jump.”

Chen Ge took a deep breath, but just as he was about to let go, the black shadow appeared at the window. He stood next to the edge and glanced at Chen Ge hanging outside the window. If he pried open Chen Ge’s fingers at that moment, he could easily kill Chen Ge.

“Follow me! We’re going to leave this place together!” Chen Ge’s voice was filled with trust and concern. This made the shadow feel uncomfortable. In the end, he did not harm Chen Ge.

“Quick!” Hanging in midair was very physically exhausting. After aiming for his landing spot, Chen Ge let go.

BANG!

Both of his feet landed firmly on top of the air-conditioner’s exposed machine. Chen Ge leaned forward to stick to the wall. “That created too much noise. The monsters inside the building and Mr. Bai will definitely have heard that. I cannot hesitate any longer!”

Turning to look up at the fourth-floor window, the shadow was still standing by the window. He appeared to have his own plan.

“You wish to hide some more? This school is a cage. No matter how long you hide, you will still be trapped! Cooperating with me is your only chance! We’ll escape this place together!” Stopping for less than a second, Chen Ge jumped down to the second-floor air-conditioner. He lifted his head again. The shadow was still standing on the fourth floor.

Chen Ge had already obtained more than enough information from the shadow. Actually, the shadow was not that useful to Chen Ge. However, Chen Ge still hoped that the shadow would be able to leave with him. He needed a helper, and more than that, he needed a local from the School of the Afterlife to be his guide.

Wishing to turn his situation around, he had to gather enough strength, and this shadow was where Chen Ge placed his hope. “I don’t know anything about this school’s rules, but I know that after consuming more than enough normal Specters, even a normal Specter can evolve into a Red Specter.”

Standing outside the second floor, Chen Ge stopped hesitating and screamed. “If I’m captured and become another ghost’s scapegoat, you’ll spend the rest of your life being pinned back on the wall!”

At the mention of his potential fate, the shadow started to hesitate. He stood on the edge and dipped downward. Chen Ge saw a shadow flit down the wall before falling into his own shadow.

“Are... you okay?” There was no response from his shadow. Chen Ge’s heart was conflicted, but he soon regained his composure. He jumped down to ground and then ran toward the brush.

“There are monsters and ghosts inside every single building here—entering them means taking on a lot of risk.” Chen Ge stayed in the brush motionlessly. About ten seconds later, Mr. Bai came out from the other side of the lab and stopped not far away from Chen Ge.

He lifted his head and spotted the window on the fourth floor that was hanging open. His expression was twisted and scary, and he kept saying, “Bad student.”

Mr. Bai seemed to be afraid of this lab building as well. He did not dare enter it but merely walked around the perimeter and then left in a hurry. Chen Ge, who was in hiding, saw everything. When he could not hear Mr. Bai’s footsteps anymore, he stood up. His eyes scanned the lab building and his body shivered.

At the window that he had escaped from earlier, there was a person in red attire staring at him!

“The Red Specter from the guardroom has been trailing me, but it seems like he is unable to leave the lab.” Chen Ge’s heart was quivering under the Red Specter’s stare, and he silently retreated.

“Where should I go next?” Chen Ge desperately needed to find somewhere safe to rest. He looked through Lin Sisi’s phone and compiled the known clues to come up with the next step of his plan.

He felt a pat on his shoulder. The thin shadow materialized behind Chen Ge. He pointed at the eastern side of the campus and gestured the following—the wall.

Chapter 784: ‘Life’ Coach

“The wall? Why would we go to somewhere like that?” Earlier, the shadow had been granted many easy chances to kill Chen Ge, but he had not elected to do so. There was already a basic trust between the two.

The shadow did not answer Chen Ge. He seemed to be hesitating over whether to lead Chen Ge there or not. The place that he had in mind was most likely a location that he was planning to use to hide.

“Feel free to deny me the answer if the question is too difficult. We are partners now and friends. There is no need to have so many concerns,” Chen Ge said with an easy smile and natural tone.

The shadow stood before Chen Ge alone. He was not tall and was on the thinner side. He looked quite fragile. Ever since he joined this school, this was the first time that someone had said such things to the shadow. He stood facing Chen Ge and did not hide himself for the first time.

Introverted, shy, self-effacing—the shadow was different from his peers. There was no liveliness in him at all. It was as if many bad things had already stripped away his happiness before he even joined the school.

Chen Ge’s words reminded the shadow of certain things. Most of his memories were gray, and whenever he was pulled down memory lane, the debris from the past would seep into his nostrils and ears. They were no longer painful—they merely dampened his spirits.

“Why are you spacing out? Let’s get going. Staying in one place for long will cause bad things to happen.” Chen Ge patted the shadow’s shoulder, but his fingers phased through the shadow’s body and fell on his chest. Chen Ge did not seem to mind it and seemed to have gotten used to this already. Taking a big stride forward, Chen Ge opened his back just like that to the shadow and did not put up any guard at all.

Staring at Chen Ge’s back, the shadow still had a hard time believing that he was cooperating with his scapegoat.

“Where is this wall that you mentioned?” Chen Ge headed in the direction that the shadow had pointed in for about ten minutes. He was no closer to seeing the edge of the school—this school was incredibly huge.

The shadow kept urging Chen Ge to pick up his speed. The ghost and human flitted through the brush for a whole five minutes before Chen Ge realized that he had returned to the same spot that they had departed from.

“Are we going in circles? How come the trees around us seem to have changed? There are now more trees...” It was untrue to say that Chen Ge was walking in circles because he had reached the eastern campus, and he could see the tall buildings at the western campus.

He and the shadow had been moving toward the western campus for a very long, but those buildings were still blurry like they were hiding behind a layer of fog. “Are you sure we’re going the right way?”

The shadow also realized that something was wrong. He stood behind one of the trees. His thin body wavered from the window like a leaf that would be blown apart at any moment.

“Brother, are you alright?” The shadow seemed to have sensed something. He pulled back his arms, signaling for Chen Ge to retreat and stop walking ahead.

“There’s a ghost around us? Is it very powerful? How powerful is it compared to you?” Chen Ge asked a series of questions, but the shadow answered none of them. He moved his body backward, and at the same time, he ensured that Chen Ge was within two meters of himself.

“Looks like there is really something inside the brush.” Chen Ge brushed the sweat from his forehead. Even the brush by the roadside was not safe anymore. He had a new understanding of this school. “Hopefully, it’s not a Red Specter or half Red Specter.”

Just as Chen Ge and the shadow were slowly retreating, a different voice seemed to drift out from the deeper part of the trees. “Save me...”

It sounded like the voice of a girl, and from the sound of it, she was less than ten years old.

“Someone is calling for help, does the voice sound familiar to you? Can you recognize her?” Chen Ge sidled up to the shadow. At that moment, it was wise to stay together. The shadow shook his head softly and then pointed at Chen Ge’s ears as if trying to remind Chen Ge to close his ears and not to listen to the girl’s pleading.

“Save me, save me... will you save me...” Even though he held his hands over his ears, the girl’s voice echoed in Chen Ge’s mind. The voice was getting clearer and clearer like the girl was getting closer.

“She sounds like she’s in so much pain. Shall we go help her?” Chen Ge took out the nail from his pocket and hid it inside his palm.

The shadow was not privy to Chen Ge’s intention. Why would he talk out a nail if he said he was going to help the girl?

He shook his head naively and gestured—‘Danger, run.’

As Chen Ge retreated, he asked, “Is she wearing bloody clothes or just normal clothes?”

The shadow had no idea what Chen Ge was up to, but he answered honestly—‘Normal clothes.’

“If it’s not a Red Specter, I think we have a need to go help her.” Chen Ge stopped moving. He counted the nails in his pocket. “A girl asking for help in the middle of the nowhere. She must be in deep trouble. How can we just ignore a plea like that?”

“Save me, don’t go, please, save me...” The girl’s voice sounded poor and weak, but at the same time, it was getting clearer. Chen Ge and the shadow were moving fast, but the girl was still able to catch up to them, which presented many problems.

“Did you hear that? This girl sounds so pitiful. If we can, we should help her.” Carrying his bag, Chen Ge hid a nail each in both hands. The shadow saw that Chen Ge was about to go help the girl and panicked. He gestured wildly, repeating the same word—‘Danger!’

“I know that it might be dangerous, but with great risk comes great reward.” Chen Ge not only did not run away, he headed toward the source of the voice. He walked deeper into the brush and yelled, “Where are you? If you’re injured, just stay there, and don’t move! I’ll be there to help you in a moment!”

Seeing as Chen Ge had answered the girl’s plea for help, the shadow’s body dissipated. He seemed to be gripped by both panic and fear. He wished to leave but had something that concerned him. In the end, he escaped back into Chen Ge’s shadow.

“Certain things cannot be avoided. Even if there’s only a miniscule chance that this girl is really injured, we need to go take a look. She only has us to rely on now. Many tragedies can be avoided with Good Samaritans,” Chen Ge claimed loudly, enough for nearby characters to hear him.

Chen Ge stood where he was, and several seconds later, a pale arm poked through the bush.

“Save me, please don’t go, save me...”

“What happened to you? How can I help?” Chen Ge asked.

“Yuan Ming has gone insane—he has really lost it. I wished to break up with him, and he threatened me with his death. Then, he asked me to meet him here, saying that he wished to have a little talk with me. We had an argument, and now he wants to kill me! He’s coming soon! Save me, save me, okay?” The girl’s voice was very weak from the copious loss of blood. Even her breathing sounded heavy.

“There’s another one?” Chen Ge stood where he was. “I’ll call the police for you. Then I’ll take you back to school to find the staff.”

“Okay, thank you, I cannot crawl anymore. Can you come over to pull me up?” the girl asked through her tears.

“Sure.” Chen Ge hid the nails in his palms and slowly walked close to the pale arm. He was about to extend his hands when the arm grabbed at Chen Ge’s palm!

It was a broken arm! The arm was not connected to anything!

“Help me! Help me! Dig the rest of me out from the ground!”

Chapter 785: We’re Not Taking Advantage of Her

The girl’s voice suddenly turned shrill, and the broken arm shot forward like a python that was striking its prey. It flew to grab Chen Ge.

“Don’t worry.” Chen Ge tightened his fists, and the nails poked through the gaps. He targeted the hand that shot at him and hit it heavily.

“I’m so cold! I’m just underneath your feet! Save me! Save... AH!” The girl’s harrowing howl was interrupted by a scream.

“Are you alright?” Chen Ge looked at the broken arm that fell next to him. The hand was very beautiful with tapered fingers, fair fingers, but the back of the hand had been pierced through by a nail, pinning it to the ground.

“Where are you buried? I saw a severed hand earlier, is it yours?” Chen Ge unclenched his palms, which were covered in sweat. Actually, he had been given quite a fright. Thankfully, he had been well prepared to face this situation. The begging ceased, and only a shrill female cursing voice remained.

“Is it that painful? I’ve been pricked a few times myself, and it doesn’t feel so bad.” Chen Ge looked around carefully as he slowly retreated. If there was a broken hand inside the brush, there was no guarantee that there was nothing else.

The girl’s voice became clearer, and Chen Ge’s ears twitched. With the talent of Ghost Ear, his hearing was better than most. He could hear the mumbling of ghost, and that effect came in handy at this moment.

It’s on my left. Chen Ge reached into pocket and grab another nail. He ensured that the weapon was close by. The arm that was pinned to the ground was still flailing about. The girl was incensed, and she stopped disguising her voice. Chen Ge moved to the left, and suddenly, he felt something give underneath his feet. It was very soft.

Not good! As the thought crossed his mind, Chen Ge’s body already reacted. He quickly jumped back, but a mysterious power pulled on his calf, preventing him from leaving.

“Didn’t you want to save me? Why are you leaving? I’m buried here, the plot of land that you’ve just stepped on!” Pain and hatred turned the girl’s voice ugly. Chen Ge ignored the girl and turned his head down to look. His calf was being grabbed by another broken arm. And worse than that, he realized that there was something wrong with this whole plot of land. It felt like a muddy bog, and his body would sink if he stayed there for too long. When he saw that hand, Chen Ge reacted swiftly. He held the nail and pushed it deep into the girl’s hand. The curse in Room 413 seemed to be very powerful, and a single nail proved to be so damaging.

No wonder it’s the room for Lin Sisi. There are probably some other treasures hidden inside that bedroom.

The scary curse turned into something useful in Chen Ge’s arms. Even the shadow in hiding was shocked by his response.

“I feel sorry for what has happened to you, and I do wish to help you, but what do you plan to do to me in return?” Chen Ge pushed the nail deeper into the other broken arm before swiftly retreating.

“Didn’t you say you’d save me? My body is just buried here! Dig me up and help me escape!” The girl’s voice echoed in his ears. Chen Ge turned back to look, and three meters away from him, there was a hole in a tree. Inside the dark enclosure sat a scary female human skull. The hair was tattered, and the

eyes that had no pupils were yanked open as they stared at Chen Ge. “Liar! You didn’t intend to help me at all! You’re all liars!”

“I really did wish to help you—that’s undeniable—but you refuse to communicate nicely with me. Why did you try to grab me?” When Chen Ge saw the girl, his hands reached subconsciously into his pocket. The girl had died a horrible death, and he might not have enough nails to deal with her.

Chen Ge had a love-hate relationship with these nails that he pulled out from his body. With the addition of each new nail, it meant that he was that much closer to death, but at the same time, it was because of these nails that he could compete against the girl and the shadow.

“Stop lying to me! That was what the man said! But in the end, this is what they did to me! Go to hell! Go to hell all of you!” The skull was sitting snugly inside the tree house. With the screaming from the girl, the surroundings started to change again. The air seemed to freeze, and the leaves rustled noisily. Soon, strands of hair floated down from between the branches, and things that looked like blood vessels surfaced on the ground. It looked quite scary.

“She seems to have joined with this plot of land after being buried here for so long.” The situation had changed to go out Chen Ge’s control. He started to retreat.

“Didn’t you say you’d save me? Why are you leaving? Is it because I look so ugly? Didn’t you promise that you’d love me no matter what happened to me? Now that I’ve become something like this, why are you turning away? Come back and accompany me! I’m so cold here alone. Come stay with me, I’ve missed you so much!” the girl screamed madly. She seemed to have treated Chen Ge as Yuan Ming, and the face inside the tree hole had morphed into something inhumane.

“She has to be in so much pain now, but I cannot communicate with her at all, and I can’t do anything to help her. Oh well, perhaps I can figure out a method to make her forget this horrible memory.” Chen Ge turned to look at his shadow. “If her spirit lingers, her pain will never end. We can’t just allow this to carry on. The head inside the tree hole should be her real form. Can you help me detain her?”

The shadow did not imagine that, in just a few seconds, the situation would deteriorate to such a stage. He looked at the two arms that were pinned on the ground, and he could not imagine how Chen Ge was going to save this girl.

“Brother, don’t just reply me with silence! As long as you can detain the head, we have a chance!” Hearing Chen Ge, the shadow shook his head in panic. He was afraid. Even though the girl was not a Red Specter, it did not mean that she was easily bullied.

“You need to have faith in yourself! No matter what happens, you have to trust yourself! This is strength from the bottom of your heart!” The shadow had a soft personality. He had been through too many things when he was still alive. Chen Ge yelled loudly, trying to resolve the lock in the shadow’s heart. “I am your scapegoat, so I won’t harm you! This girl is the first hurdle that we’ve encountered as a team. We have to overcome it so that our path in the future will be smooth!”

Chen Ge spoke very fast, and he did end up convincing the shadow. The thin shadow appeared behind Chen Ge. His body swayed with the wind and looked like he would disperse at any moment.

“Don’t be afraid! Don’t hesitate! Think about your past! You do not wish for the tragedy to occur again! You cannot allow yourself to continue being like this!”

The shadow gradually grew. With the encouragement from Chen Ge, the shadow grew to twice his size. The hands turned into claws, and the resentment around him thickened.

“Yes! Anger, pain, and despair are your power. Go ahead! This hurdle before us is not the enemy—it is just a soft fruit. Make her a part of you, carry her spirit with you. That way, you won’t only have saved her, you’ll end up saving yourself!”

Chen Ge’s voice was low and hoarse, like the murmuring of the devil.

Chapter 786: Much to Learn

Chen Ge’s voice seemed to possess some kind of magical power, and words became a weapon even sharper than a knife. In the dark forest, the air stilled to the point that it formed a suffocating barrier, strands of black hair dangled down from the treetop, and the blood vessels on the ground weaved together. Based on some unique rules, when the skull in the tree hole spotted the shadow, a flash of confusion crossed her eyes that were pupil-less.

“Don’t hesitate! Any hesitation is a waste of time that we can use to escape! Do you wish to cancel out our hope with your own hands?” Holding the nails with both hands, Chen Ge stood behind the shadow. “No matter what happens, I’ll face it with you!”

The shadow, which was originally smaller than Chen Ge, was now three meters tall. The resentment and hatred gathered in his heart was evoked by Chen Ge. His hands morphed into claws, and a beast-like roar escaped from his throat.

This shadow that had been pinned to Room 413 possessed huge potential. In fact, his potential was far greater than Chen Ge imagined, which caused him to become more curious about the shadow’s past. “Everyone has hope, but to turn that hope into reality, it depends not on charity but everything you’ve got. Only by giving it your all might there be a chance!”

Chen Ge pointed at the skull inside the tree hole. “And that is our hope.”

The shadow body was continually expanding, and when Chen Ge said that, the shadow’s face cracked, causing many thin black lines to surface on his body. Then, the shadow charged forward.

The girl’s scream filled the brush again. The decayed muscles that littered the ground carried an indescribable stench with them, and they tried to stop the shadow. At the same time, the black hair from the branches seemed to gain a life of their own as they curled toward Chen Ge.

“Coming at the two of us at once?” From his many experiences of being chased by ghosts, Chen Ge’s body was very agile. This was a valuable skill that he had obtained.

“The girl can influence the neighboring grounds. If we don’t deal with her, it’ll be very hard to leave this place.” Chen Ge had no idea what was behind him walking in circles, and he could not fix it. Therefore, he could only try to solve the problem from its basis. The battle between ghosts was extremely violent, and most of the time, it would only stop once one party was torn to pieces. After the shadow expanded,

he was stronger than before, but he lacked fighting experience and was not as mad and as crazed as Xu Yin, so he soon was tripped by the girl.

“This guy has great potential, but he’s too weak now!” Chen Ge knew that once the shadow was defeated, he would not survive on his own. Veins pulsed on his arms as he grabbed the bag and lobbed it as forceful as he could at the tree hole. Before the bag reached its target, it was stopped by the net of hair that dropped from the treetop. However, that was enough to buy time for Chen Ge. He grabbed the nail and ran toward the tree hole from another direction

“I can’t stop! The ground here is soaked with her blood. I’ll die if I slow down!” Ignoring the fear before his eyes, Chen Ge pushed forward with a powerful will. Compared to the shadow, he appeared more crazed. “Soon, the pain will be over. Soon, you will not be in the torment of pain and loneliness anymore!”

Chen Ge did not think about retreating, and he moved very fast. The girl sensed the threat from Chen Ge and pulled out part of her energy to stop him. The grass wilted at an incredible speed to expose a human skin-like ground.

“Since you’re unwilling to save me, then get buried here alongside my body.” Gashes opened on the ground, which looked like interconnecting wounds. The temperature dropped as something crawled out from the gaps.

Chen Ge felt both pain and numbness coming from his calves. He slowly lost feeling in his feet. The thing that had crawled out from the gaps earlier seemed to be various insects. He did not stop to take a look. He was temporarily ignoring anything that might slow him down. At that moment, the only thing in his eyes was the skull inside the tree hole.

“I know you’re in great pain, but why unload your anger on innocent people? You aren’t going after those that harmed you but trying to threaten us innocent passersby, isn’t that a bit too much?” Chen Ge yelled loudly. He was not afraid of exposing his location. The most urgent matter was to undo the walking loop and killing this female ghost that he could communicate with. Even though he was losing control of his legs, he pushed himself forward.

The girl exhausted a lot of energy to deal with Chen Ge. The shadow made use of this opportunity to escape from her grasp and instantly reached the space next to the tree hole. He reached his sharp claws inside the hole. Following Chen Ge’s order, the shadow tried to grab the skull out of the hole, but once he tried to issue force, the girl’s skull issued a horrifying scream. As the skull was yanked out, Chen Ge and the shadow realized that underneath the skull hid innumerable blood vessels that looked like plant fibers.

“What kind of monster is this?” This was the first time that Chen Ge had encountered a creature like this, but he reacted faster than the shadow. “Chop off the vessels connecting to her head! Quick!”

The girl’s eyes were white. The blood vessels under her neck were connected to the trees. The ground was slowly sinking like it was planning to swallow the shadow.

“Quick! Cut it off!” Chen Ge yelled at the top of his lungs. It was not looking so good for the shadow. He did not cut off the girl’s blood vessels, and his body was slowly being entwined by them. “Why are you hesitating?”

With the ground sinking, Chen Ge was unable to turn and run away. Instead, he used the last ounce of his energy to pounce at the girl's skull. He did something crazy. His body rammed into the net made of the blood vessels and pierced the nails into the girl's eyes at a close distance!

"Quick! Now!" The eyes were poked through. The girl was on a complete rampage. The bloody net was closing in on Chen Ge and the shadow. "We don't have much time!"

At the last moment, the shadow made his first step toward transformation. His body turned illusory, but the two claws materialized physically. The shadow gathered all of his strength as he pierced his hands through the girl's skull. Blood splattered everywhere, and a piercing scream cut through the night sky.

...

The fog around them slowly lightened. The shadow exploded at the last moment, and his spectral nature compelled him to do many things that he had not done before. The night breeze blew. The shadow's body was returning to normal. He lifted his thin, weak arms. In the middle of his palms was a red heart yanked out from the deepest part of the tree hole.

"You've done a great job. We've passed the first hurdle." Chen Ge looked at the shadow with a smile. He was currently lying in the mud. There were many scratches on his body. The worms that had crawled from the ground earlier were not real worms but coagulations of the girl's resentment.

"Before you consume this heart, I have one last question to ask you." Chen Ge forced himself to stand up. "I wonder if you've experienced this before. How long will you hibernate after you consume something like this?"

After a Specter consumed another Specter's essence, they would go into hibernation. The period of hibernation was related to the consumer's and the consumed's power level.

The shadow had no idea what Chen Ge was talking about. He was too eager to eat the heart he was holding.

"Looks like you really don't know anything. Don't worry, I can teach you slowly," Chen Ge said with a smile and signaled for the shadow to leave the brush.

Chapter 787: Instinct and Beyond Instinct

The shadow was very weak. He would avoid a Half Red Specter, much less a Red Specter. To put it plainly, he was at the bottom of the pyramid at this school. He had forever been pinned to the wall, unable to move, unable to speak, just a stain on the wall.

Indeed, compared to the other monsters at the school, the shadow was just like a small stain. No one would give him any thought, and no one would have faith in him, least of them all himself.

"We've made too loud a commotion—we need to leave this place immediately." Chen Ge went forth to remind the shadow since the latter was still standing there. The shadow was like an orphan who had seen his parents for the first time. There was a bestial element to his nature, but he did not know how to get used to it.

“There will come a day for every mammal to be weaned from its mother’s teat. If you don’t eat others, you’ll end up being eaten by others.” Chen Ge patted the shadow’s shoulder. His hand once again phased through the shadow and fell on his chest. “No one is willing to grow up, but you have to understand that you cannot stay a child.”

These words were meaningful to the shadow. The latter’s body shook. His hands held the heart that looked like a red ruby before swallowing it whole!

“Hey!” At that moment, the shadow seemed to lose his rationality. His spectral nature compelled him to consume the heart.

“This is bad. That girl should be slightly more powerful than the shadow. He will go into hibernation since he has just consumed the heart of a ghost who is more powerful than he is.” Chen Ge knew about the shadow’s potential, but even with that unique potential, he was not going to be more powerful than Zhang Ya. After Zhang Ya consumed a Red Specter, even she had to go into hibernation. There was no exception.

“Why are you acting so recklessly?” Chen Ge had just found himself a helper, and now said helper was going into hibernation. This gave hm quite a headache. His original plan had been to split the red heart into several parts so that the shadow would still grow but not go into hibernation.

Just by swallowing the heart, the shadow’s size doubled. He held his head in both of his hands. He pulled on his lips and face madly like he was trying to tear his face apart. Chen Ge could see that the shadow was in great pain, but he did not know how to help him.

“Calm down. If you really cannot consume the other party, accept her—accept her power and carry out her dying wish, help her complete her dying hope!” Chen Ge yelled loudly. The shadow finally reacted. He walked to the tree hole, squatted down, and reached both of his hands into the hole like he was looking for something.

“Something is not right. Even for Zhang Ya, when she consumed a Specter from the same level, she entered hibernation in a very short time. This guy has held on for so long. Is it because of his own uniqueness, or are the ghosts at this school different from the ghosts outside?”

The shadow dug for a long time before retrieving a rusted knife from inside the tree hole.

“Is this the weapon that killed the girl? Has her spirit been lingering on this murder weapon?”

Normally, a Specter’s item of possession was related to the item important to their life. The girl’s item of possession was most likely the weapon that had killed her, which also meant that the driving force to her lingering after her death was revenge.

The shadow’s body doubled in size. He held the knife and stood before Chen Ge. The twisted arms waved up and down like he was trying to say something. Several seconds later, the shadow crawled into Chen Ge’s shadow, and the knife fell before him.

“Does he wish for me to go look for the killer?” Chen Ge’s lips pulled upward. He picked up the knife. He was in the same camp as the shadow, so he would help whenever he could. “To go to such an extent for being a scapegoat, I don’t think anyone would have done this.”

The knife was covered in rust and dirt, but it felt quite heavy in Chen Ge's grasp. "Could it be that the nature of the knife has changed since the girl has possessed it for so long?"

After placing the knife in the folds of his clothes, Chen Ge inspected the surrounding again. The signs of battle were obvious in the brush. There was no way to hide them, so Chen Ge decided to make use of it to misdirect people who might be on their trail.

"After wasting so much time here, it's about time we leave." There was danger hiding in every corner of this school. All Chen Ge could do then was trust in the shadow and find the location that the shadow had mentioned—the wall.

Turning back to look at his shadow, Chen Ge could feel the increasing chilling air that radiated from it. "He'll become stronger after consuming another Specter, but this school appears to have a rule of its own. All the ghosts that I've encountered limited their nature, quite unusual."

Chen Ge thought back to his experience in Li Wan City. The 3.5-star scenario had a lot of Specters, but there were few instances where the Specters went after each other because each Specter had their own territory, and their area of movement was limited.

This was completely different from this school. Most of the Specters could move freely and go to any corner of the school.

"Someone at this school has accomplished something that the ghost fetus at the pinnacle of Red Specter was unable to do." Chen Ge sucked in a cold breath. He was even more certain that there was something greater than a Red Specter at the school. "How am I supposed to face something even scarier than Zhang Ya?"

Chen Ge quickly suppressed the burgeoning sense of despair. "The black phone wouldn't have given me an impossible mission. There has to be a way out."

A three-star scenario was different from a four-star scenario, just like how a Red Specter was different from a Greater Red Specter. However, Chen Ge was unfamiliar with the exact differences. In any case, the encounters that he had experienced tipped him off to certain things.

Red Specters were tied to the instinct and nature that they carried from when they were alive, but Greater Red Specters seemed to have broken through that limitation. For example, the twelve painters in the art room and the bloody oil paintings that were hard to understand. They seemed to be collectively expressing something, and that something was already beyond Chen Ge's comprehension.

"Different from knowing the ghost fetus' identity, there should be something that I can do to deal with the owner of this school." The ghost fetus harbored deep resentment toward Chen Ge, and it could not wait to torture Chen Ge. Conversely, the owner of this school did not seem to have much personal history with Chen Ge.

"I should take it slow; my most immediate concern is to survive." Chen Ge picked up his speed. As he ran, he took out Lin Sisi's phone. He keyed in the password and finally unlocked the phone.

"After the Red Specter at the lab saw me leave the building, it stopped chasing me. From that, it shows that even Red Specters are unable to violate the rules of this school. What I need to do now is figure out the rules here and make use of the rules to increase the chance of my own survival."

Lowering his head to glance at the phone, he only took a glimpse at it, and Chen Ge was unable to pull his gaze away again. Lin Sisi's phone background was that of an oil painting. It featured a human face that was featureless.

Chapter 788: Phone Number and the Clue of the Killer

"Is this Lin Sisi's self-portrait? But why didn't he paint in his own features?" Chen Ge stared at the faceless head in the phone, and the longer he stared at it, the more confused he became. Gradually, it felt like he was staring at his own face. "Shouldn't the phone's background keep changing? Whenever there's a new Lin Sisi, would the human face change again?"

This phone was a treasure for Chen Ge; he had too many things that he needed to understand. Moving his fingers, Chen Ge first clicked open the photo album. "The camera functions normally, but the videos or photos inside this phone are quite strange."

Chen Ge looked for a long time before he found the problem. There was no human presence inside the videos and photos—they were all about the scenery.

"Have the pictures with people in them been deleted? Or could the people at this school not be captured by the phone at all?" Chen Ge very bravely conducted an experiment on himself. He raised the phone and took a selfie. The phone was so old that it did not have a front camera, and the picture taken was very blurry. Chen Ge glanced at it. Initially, he did not notice anything, but later on, his eyes started to narrow.

There was not only Chen Ge in the picture taken—there was also the shadow behind him. The strangest thing was inside the picture. Chen Ge's shadow was thin and defenseless. He was hugging his knees, curling his body together.

"This phone can capture the shadow from Room 413? This phone can capture ghosts with its lens?" Chen Ge suddenly understood why there had not been any people inside the phone's saved photos. "All the pictures that had people in them have been deleted, but I have no idea whether it was Lin Sisi or someone else who did so."

The phone had been tweaked before, but it did not dampen Chen Ge's mood. He found another thing worth noticing about the phone. The shadow in the picture retained his most original phone. In other words, Lin Sisi's phone most likely possessed the ability to see through the ghost's disguise and recover their most original form.

"With this phone, I can avoid many dangers and have a glance of the ghost's real image beforehand. Plus, I can use this to come up with many special plans." Chen Ge felt like his luck had turned much better after he encountered the shadow. He took a few more pictures of himself. After confirming his hypothesis, he deleted all the pictures and returned the phone to its original state. Lin Sisi's phone was very old. Other than the camera function, it only had a few other basic features. Chen Ge then looked at the phone book. There was only one contact inside—home.

Opening the recent calls, it showed that there were only records for calls made in the last twenty-four hours. It was worth noting that in the past twenty-four hours, someone had used this phone to call two unknown numbers several times. The last call was made right before Chen Ge awakened in this school.

“Such consistent calls means that Lin Sisi should have noticed something already. He kept calling these two numbers because their owners might have been able to aid him.” Chen Ge was now Lin Sisi in everyone’s eyes. He thought about it before calling the first number.

It rang for a long time, but there was no answer.

“Why isn’t anyone answering?” Chen Ge anxious. The other person did not end the call and did not pick up the call, allowing it to ring.

“Did the person not take their phone with them, or are they also considering whether to answer the call or not?” After it continued to ring for a while, Chen Ge ended the call, and he tried the second number.

The busy tone pulled on Chen Ge’s nerves. Several seconds later, something surprising happened. Following a light click, the second call was connected. The other person answered the call, but no one spoke. Chen Ge patiently waited for the person on the other end of the line. He listened to the background noises, hoping to triangulate the other person’s location, but unfortunately, the other line was exceptionally quiet like a morgue at midnight.

“Hello?” The phone had limited power. Chen Ge did not dare waste more time, so he spoke first. “I know you’re listening. First, I don’t mean any harm. If now is not a suitable time, it’s fine. I just have some questions, and you only need to make some sound when my predictions are wrong.”

His own echo came from the other end. The other person still did not intend to speak.

“Do you know Lin Sisi?”

Almost as soon as Chen Ge said the name Lin Sisi, the call was cut off. Chen Ge did not even have time to react to it.

“They hung up on me? But this proves that there’s something wrong with them if they hung up with such certainty after hearing the name Lin Sisi.” Chen Ge called again, and this time, it only rang once before the call was ended.

“How about we try texting then?” Chen Ge soon abandoned this thought. Speaking was bidirectional. While exposing himself, he would obtain information about the other, but messaging was one-directional. The more he spoke, the more he would reveal about his own secrets.

For the sake of security, Chen Ge temporarily abandoned the plan of messaging. He moved his fingers as he called the number for home. When he keyed in all the numbers, a boy’s voice announced on the phone, “I’m sorry, but the number you’re calling is not available.”

The number was supposed to be home, but the number led to an empty number. Chen Ge tried it a few more times, and the result was all the same.

“Looks like this number is really cut off—his home is already gone.” Chen Ge memorized the three phone numbers and left the brush in the direction given by the shadow. The eerie streetlights glowed

weakly on him, pulling his shadow long. But upon closer inspection, he discovered that his shadow was wiggling like it was slowly growing.

“The shadow only needed a short amount of time to digest the girl, at least ten times faster than my experience outside the door! Is this his talent, or is this common to all the ghosts inside this door?” The shadow had digested the other Specter so fast that it gave Chen Ge a confidence boost to his plan. However, he did not get ahead of himself. “Even with such a quick digestion speed, the rules at this school are so well maintained, which goes to show how powerful the owner here is.”

Chen Ge was unsure of the other rules at this school, but consuming other Specters had to be something that violated the rules. “When I just woke up, Mr. Bai was taking a rollcall inside the classroom. At the time, my deskmate seemed to remind me that there have been students going missing from the school.

“The missing students might have been consumed by others, and most ghosts go into hibernation after consuming others, so how did the killers escape detection?”

Widening his eyes, Chen Ge suddenly was struck by a possibility. “Could it be that the killer that the school is looking for is hiding among the missing students? He might be the first student to have gone missing.”

Hypothesizing based on this clue, a flash of brilliance appeared in Chen Ge’s eyes. “There is a Greater Red Specter at this school. The locals here mostly follow the school rules, and only those who came from outside like me will go against the rules fearlessly... Does this mean that the killer that the school is looking for might be Chang Gu, who arrived here earlier than me?”

Chapter 789: Window

Assuming that the person who pushed open the door inside the sickroom was Chang Gu, then where did he go after entering the door?

Chen Ge knew practically nothing about this world behind the door. The experience that he had obtained from previous three-star scenarios was completely useless here, but Chang Gu was different. The man had spent years studying this specific door, and he even possessed the left eye that Chang Wenyu had taken from the School of the Afterlife.

The eye could see things that normal people could not, and possessing it was no different from possessing a cheat.

Chang Wenyu is Chang Gu’s little sister. Her physical body became a vessel for scapegoats. That means that her soul should still be somewhere in this school. She won’t allow anything bad to happen to her own big brother.

If this current mission’s difficulty could be categorized into different stages, then Chang Gu was playing the extremely difficult version while Chen Ge was playing the hellish difficulty version.

Chen Ge started the game with nothing. When he opened his eyes, he was already in the middle of a dangerous conundrum. He had to survive without any aid, and there was not one single person whom

he could trust around him. Under these circumstances, Chen Ge somehow managed to carve a way out for himself.

If I can meet up with Chang Gu, his aid will mean my aid, and we will be able to look after each other.

Even though Chang Gu had bad eyesight, he was a very clever man. He was good at hiding and was much more capable than he made himself out to be.

After the shadow wakes up, I'll go look for the list of the victims. I'll observe Chang Gu from the dark before deciding what to do.

Never one to put all of his eggs in one basket, after finding Chang Gu, Chen Ge planned to work with him, with one in the open and the other in the dark.

If this killer really is Chang Gu, then I can make use of this opportunity to put everything onto him and clear my name. I'll come out to help him at the most crucial moment. The school probably won't expect there to be two killers.

Chen Ge actually had another plan in his heart.

To confuse the school, having only two killers isn't enough—I need help from more ghosts. When there are more than a handful of killers, the school rules will be completely broken, and then I will have a chance to submerge myself in the muddy waters.

In any case, those were merely Chen Ge's temporary thoughts. It was hard to put this plan into action. There were Greater Red Specters at the school, and Chen Ge could barely imagine just how scary those monsters were.

When the other ghosts are summoned, I should try to make myself scarce. Perhaps there's a way that I can provoke them remotely.

His plan was slowly moving into completion in his head. Chen Ge reached the end of the road without really realizing it. Before him was a long wall. The paint on the wall was peeling, and it was covered with vines. The night breeze blew, and the leaves rustled lightly. They looked like many small hands waving at Chen Ge.

This wall is only three meters tall, and there is no visible support anywhere. I'll have a hard time jumping over it. Why would the shadow tell me to come here?

The wall was adjacent to a brush, so Chen Ge did not need to worry about being exposed. However, his experience told him that staying in one spot for too long would only lead to bad things. Chen Ge reached his hands toward the wall. The leaves of the vines brushed against the back of his arms. The sensation was weird, like children biting him with their small teeth.

"This wall looks normal. There doesn't seem to be anything wrong with it." Chen Ge did not dare stay there for long. He kept turning back to look at his own shadow. The shadow's body was changing at every minute. He was in the middle of a metamorphosis and showed no sign of reawakening any time soon. "It's ironic that a scapegoat has started to get worried about the ghost that placed the curse on me."

The shadow had only told Chen Ge to come to the wall, but he did not tell him what to do when he reached the wall. "There is no sign of blood or a chilling presence. This place feels no different from the surrounding wall of a normal night school."

The wall looked too normal, so normal that it felt incongruous with the rest of the school. Chen Ge took another few steps forward before suddenly stopping. He pushed away the plants that covered the wall and stuck his ear to the wall.

"There is sound coming from the other side of the wall! It sounds like students talking!" Due to the distance, Chen Ge could not clearly hear the content. "Even from the distance, I can still catch some clues. This means that there is a large number of speakers."

Chen Ge tried to triangulate the location. The other side of the wall was Jiujiang Private University for undergraduates.

"Why is there a need for a wall to separate the eastern and western campuses? The eastern campus is scary enough. Don't tell me that the western campus is even scarier!" Chen Ge leaned against the wall to listen. He could not sense anything that was wrong. "Did the shadow want me to head toward the western campus?"

The shadow had no reason to harm Chen Ge, and Chen Ge also trusted the shadow implicitly, but it was too difficult for him to cross the wall. Thus, Chen Ge moved down the wall. He walked for several minutes before he spotted a squat two-story building.

The house was not big and was built into the wall. The door was left half open like someone had been inside the building moments earlier. Once he got near, Chen Ge smelled a horrible stench in the air. This stench was different from the stench that Chen Ge had smelled at the lab. It was not a simple smell of decay, but it was a mixture of several horrible stenches.

"If I climb up to this building's roof, I'll be high enough to just jump over the wall." Chen Ge stood outside the building and resisted the urge to vomit. He took out Lin Sisi's phone. "This phone can capture ghosts and monsters; I might as well try to use it now."

Switching on the phone, Chen Ge discovered with some shock that the face on the background was slowly becoming more and more like his. "This portrait is changing?"

Shaking his head, Chen Ge clicked open the camera. He lifted the phone and aimed it at the small building and its surrounding. Everything looked normal.

"The stench here is different from the one at the lab. It shouldn't be those upside-down monsters. Shall I go in to take a look?" Chen Ge levelled several glances at the small building. The building had an exposed wall, and there was no window on the first floor. The only place to support his body was the window on the second floor. "This building only has one window?"

If Chen Ge was to use the building to leap over the wall, he had to first enter the building and then climb out through the second-floor window and up to the roof.

"There are things here that are not visible with my Yin Yang Vision, but Lin Sisi's phone should be able to capture their presence. If not for the fact that the phone accidentally captured things that it shouldn't

have, the pictures inside it wouldn't have been tampered with." Chen Ge finally made a decision. He walked up to the building and pushed open the door.

The door creaked noisily. Chen Ge entered the room and saw the floor that was littered with trash.

There was everyday trash and wrappings for various medicine, as well as balls of black plastic bags that appeared to be leaking blood.

"Is this building used as some kind of disposal center?" Chen Ge held the phone and did not let his guard down. With every step, he stopped to take a picture of his surroundings.

Chapter 790: Trash Collection Centre

Trash at a public institute like a school was normally centrally gathered before being moved out of the school in trash trucks. Therefore, this building was likely used as some kind of center for the collection of trash at Jiujiang Private University. The trash from the entire school was pooled there before being moved out of the compound. "This building is placed between the two campuses. Does this mean that the two campuses share the same trash collection center?"

Chen Ge used the phone to look around and discovered several strange locations. There were eight cubicles inside the small building, and each cubicle had a wooden plaque hanging over it on which different terms were written.

The first cubicle was categorized for paper-based trash. White paper, brown paper, and paper cups and plates littered the door.

The second cubicle was for plastic trash. Abandoned plastic mineral water bottles were left on the ground. The third cubicle had the term metal on the plaque, and the fourth was for aluminum. So far everything appeared normal. However, from the fifth cubicle onward, things started to get strange.

The wooden plaque on the fifth cubicle had the following written on it.

Human.

"Human is a kind of trash here?" The door of the fifth cubicle was not locked, so Chen Ge pushed it open to take a look.

Creak...

Various deformed 'humans' hung like dried meat inside the small cubicle. Their feet were tied, and that was how they were dangled from the ceiling with their heads facing downward, their heads swaying lightly in the wind. Chen Ge drew in a cold breath. There were at least thirty 'humans' inside the narrow space. "These should be mannequins, right?"

Raising the phone, Chen Ge took a few pictures of the hanging men. The pictures showed nothing more than what he could see with his bare eyes.

Wiping away the sweat from his palm, Chen Ge raised his hand to touch those hanging 'humans'. The sensation that came from his fingertips did not feel like that of rubber. It was not the sensation from

touching a dead person's skin either. It felt more like he was touching a living person. The skin was warm, the pores were breathing, and the blood under the skin was still flowing.

"They're similar to living humans, but it feels like they've all lost their souls." Taking one step back, Chen Ge studied the hanging men. Their eyes were closed like they were fast asleep. "Perhaps I should stay away from them."

Chen Ge was about to leave when he noticed that one of the 'humans' had the same physical appearance as the shadow from Room 413. It was 1.6 meters tall, on the thin side, and had practically no muscle on it. It looked more like a skeleton with human skin sewn over it.

"This looks very similar to the shadow. Is this why the shadow told me to come here?" Chen Ge was not one hundred percent sure that the 'human' inside the cubicle belonged to the shadow. There was not much walking space inside the cubicle, and there were too many obstacles in the way for him to get a good look. "Temporarily, I should ignore this. I should try and see if I can leap over the wall first. If I can, then my explorable space will have increased."

Walking out of the fifth cubicle, Chen Ge turned to look at the other cubicles.

The sixth cubicle was for experimental trash. The door was locked, and Chen Ge could not open it. The seventh cubicle was for non-recyclable trash. Once he got near, Chen Ge was assaulted by a suffocating stench. "This is horrible."

The door of the seventh cubicle was also locked. Chen Ge quickly walked past the door and was heading to the last cubicle, but when he passed the door, a male voice suddenly came from inside the door.

"Is someone out there?"

Chen Ge froze immediately. He turned his head slowly around to stare at the door of the seventh cubicle. He definitely did not expect a human voice to come from a room meant for non-recyclable trash.

"I hear footsteps. You're now just outside this door, aren't you?"

"I am the manager of the trash classification center; can you please open the door for me? When I came in here to move the trash, something slammed the door shut, and I found myself accidentally trapped in here. I'm locked inside the center's storage room." The man's voice sounded normal, but there were many suspicious points in his explanation.

The cubicle door could only be opened from the outside, and an iron lock hung on the door. No matter how one knocked into the door, the lock would not have locked itself.

"I know that you're out there. Can you please help me? The spare keys should be on the second floor." The man continued to yell out the door, but Chen Ge did not reply. After half a minute, the man appeared to have given up. "Is there really no one there? I thought I could trick them in here and then snack on them little by little. The smell in this room is getting more fragrant by the day. What do you think?"

"He should be still out there. I'll bet ten fingers."

“He probably overheard our conversation. He won’t come in to save us. Give up already, you bunch of ugly, dirty, disgusting things.”

“I’m wondering if we should go out the backdoor and drag the person in here to join us. They probably don’t realize that we can leave this place freely, right?”

“That’s a secret that we’ve kept to ourselves. Don’t expose everything for some temporary joy.”

“But he already heard our secret. How about we kill him? What do you think?”

“Killing him will still get us exposed, you idiots! Last time, I shoved so many brains inside your skulls, so how come you’re all still so stupid?”

Listening to the heated argument coming from inside the cubicle, Chen Ge’s face was turning white. Inside the cubicle meant for non-recyclable trash, only a man’s voice could be heard, but he seemed to be playing different characters. It sounded like he suffered from schizophrenia, but unlike other patients, every single persona of this person was extremely mad, crazy, and sick—none of them could think or act like a normal person.

“The people here have been completely influenced by the negative emotions. Even inside the world behind the door, I haven’t met someone so crazy.” Chen Ge immediately left. He glanced at the eighth cubicle.

This cubicle was situated at the deepest part of the building. The wooden plaque on the door was blank. The space around the door was very clean. It did not look like it was meant for trash at all.

“Such a scary school. Even a trash collection center can give me such creeps.” Walking past the black plastic bags that were still seeping blood, Chen Ge grabbed the phone to go to the second floor. Some tools could be found there, and overall, it was cleaner than the first floor.

Chen Ge did not stop to admire the view and headed for the only window of the building. The window faced the night school, and various stains dirtied the glass. Standing inside the building, one could barely see outside.

“The monster inside cubicle seven could come out at any moment. Whether he was lying or not, I cannot stay here any longer. Though, I should keep note of this place—perhaps I’ll think of a use for it in the future.”

As Chen Ge reached toward the window, before he could open it, a screeching sound arrived at his ears. It sounded like someone was using their nails to scratch at the glass.